

MEETING OF THE ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held on Monday 19 July 2010

Strategic Command Centre, Headquarters, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Dee Road, Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG30 4FS



- Those present:** Professor Christopher Guy (Independent Member, Fire Authority) (*Chairman*)
Councillor Andrew Bradley (Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Adrian Edwards (Member, Fire Authority)
Mr John Giles (Independent Member, Fire Authority) (*Vice-Chairman*)
Councillor Chris Harris (Member, Fire Authority) (Named Deputy)
Councillor Peter Jones (Member, Fire Authority)
Mr Philip King OBE (Independent Member, Fire Authority)
Councillor Fred Pugh (Member, Fire Authority) (Named Deputy)
Councillor Mohammed Rasib (Member, Fire Authority) (Named Deputy)
Mr Baldev Sian (Independent Named Deputy, Fire Authority)
Mr Jonathan Taylor (Independent Member, Fire Authority)
Mr Ronald Webb (Independent Member, Fire Authority)
- In Attendance:** Caroline Redzikowska (Clerk and Monitoring Officer)
Fayth Rowe (Committee Officer)

Action

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Chris Bowring (Member, Fire Authority).

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

30. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2010

Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2010 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

31. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2010

Resolved:

- a) That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2010 be Approved for signing by the Chairman.

32. APPOINTMENT OF ASSESSMENT, REVIEW PANEL AND STANDARDS HEARING PANEL AS SUB COMMITTEES OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Resolved:

- a) That an Assessment, Review Panel and Standards Hearing Panel as Sub Committees of the Standards Committee be appointed for the ensuing year.

33. RECEIPT OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer reported that the Standards For England Conference scheduled for October 2010 had been cancelled.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer advised of the Government's proposal to abolish Standards For England. It was not yet known whether Standards For England would be replaced but she had expressed the view that the Code of Conduct would be updated and / or revised.

34. SOUTH EAST CHARTER ON ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer reminded Members the Fire Authority approved to sign up to the principles of the Charter for Elected Member Development at its Annual Meeting on 30 June 2010.

The Fire Authority had also tasked the Standards Committee to scope the work that was needed to carry out the principles of the Charter.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer made a series of proposals to assist the Standards Committee in commencing the project which were;

- To invite South East Employers (Charter assessment body) to a Standards Committee meeting to provide practical advice on how to successfully achieve the Charter.
- To invite Bracknell Forest Council (first Authority in the region to be awarded the Charter in May 2006) to learn lessons on how they achieved the Charter.
- To invite the Fire Authority's Member Development Champion Councillor Phillip Bicknell to attend future items on Member Development at Standards Committee meetings.
- For South East Charter on Elected Member Development to become a Standing Agenda Item at future Standards Committee meetings.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer circulated papers on the Accreditation Guidelines and Self Assessment tool kit on the Charter from Improvement and Development Agency (I&DeA) and a case study from Bracknell Forest Council. *(Copies available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager)*

In going through the Charter milestones/standards, Councillor Peter Jones requested for it to relate to the Fire Authority, not the Council as it was currently written.

The Chairman felt it was important for a Member Development policy to be written as a starting point in order to identify a work plan to achieve each milestone/standards.

In answer to a question from Councillor Peter Jones, the Clerk and Monitoring Officer reported that Member Development would be fully supported by herself, Committee Manager; Lynda Kenyon and Committee Officer; Fayth Rowe. She also reported that at the request of the Standards Committee other Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS) Officers with a specialist skill set relevant to the requirements of the Charter would be available to assist.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer stated that the Member Development budget would come out of her own budget as Clerk and Monitoring Officer.

Councillor Adrian Edwards advised the Committee to consider the establishment of a cross party Member Steering Group to follow the progress of a 12 month action plan.

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer reported she was happy to learn lessons and examine Member Development policies from Hampshire and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Services as they had signed to the Charter.

Resolved:

- a) That the contents of the report be Noted.
- b) That the Clerk and Monitoring Officer draft a Member Development Policy.
- c) That good practice is shared from Hampshire and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Services Member Development Policy.
- d) That the milestones/standards of the Charter to be rewritten to reflect the Fire Authority.
- e) That the Clerk and Monitoring Officer invite the Fire Authority Member Development Champion to the next Standards Committee.
- f) That the South East Charter on Elected Member Development to become a Standing Agenda Item at future Standards Committee meetings.

CMO

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Agenda
16.09.10

Standing
Agenda
Item

35. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

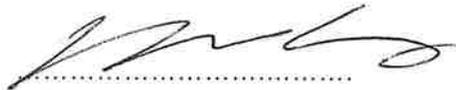
Thursday 16 September 2010 at 5.30pm in the Strategic Command Centre, Headquarters, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service.

36. CODE OF CONDUCT – BRIEFING AND ADVICE

The Clerk and Monitoring Officer delivered training and circulated papers on the Code of Conduct. *(Copies available from Lynda Kenyon, Committee Manager).*

Minutes signed by Chairman as a correct record:

Signature



Print Name

C.G. GUY

Date signed:

10/2/2011